

# St Matthias CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 9th January  
2026



## Welcome back to all our children and a Happy New Year to all!

The staff started the term with a day of learning- in the morning we joined together with teachers and support staff across six schools within our federation. During this time we reflected on the research into effective reading teaching and thought deeply about how to provide the best possible learning opportunities to our children. In effect how to ensure a love of reading as well as strengthening comprehension and fluency. Are your children reading at home? Which books are they really into at the moment?

In the afternoon we spent time thinking about the importance of play times. Recognising that this makes up 20% of the children's day and that it is important we get it right. Encouraging role play, adventure and taking risks. We look at the role of the play worker and what we can do to facilitate play in all areas of the playground. This term we have plans to expand into father David's meadow and get all the children digging and building dens! Exciting times (and possibly muddy times) for all! Please speak to your children about their play times and what they enjoy most. We have been trialling 'mix up monday' where all the children play everywhere and hope to roll this out across the whole week at some point this term. We will also be booking in a day for you to come and see play times in action! Watch this space...

## Important dates:

**Monday 16th-Friday 20th February**

Half term holiday



**Monday 23rd February**

Spring 2 Term Starts  
ALL CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL!



**Monday 23rd February**

Registration for Hackney Run Schools Challenge opens



**Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April**

Easter Holidays



**Monday 13th April**

Summer 1 Term Starts  
ALL CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL!



**Monday 4th May**

Bank Holiday



**Saturday 16th May**

Hackney Run School Challenge!



**PE next week - please ensure pupils are in the appropriate PE kit.**

## Spring 1 P.E Days

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Year 2 | Year 3  | Year 1    | Year 4   | Year 5 |
|        |         |           | Year 6   | EYFS   |

## News from our classes: What has been the most memorable learning this week?

**EYFS:** This week we have had an amazing and settled first week back. We have been very busy exploring our new book Juniper Jupiter and practising writing sentences. In Maths, we have been learning different ways to make 5 by singing Five Little Speckled Frogs. In RE, we talked about why Jesus is special and who is special to us. In PSHE, we were set some tricky challenges, such as picking a chosen coloured pompom while blindfolded. We learned how important it is to keep trying and not give up, showing great resilience. In Nursery, the children have been learning One, Two, Buckle My Shoe in Little Wandle and have been super mark makers, practising their early writing skills. We have also been very busy learning and exploring in the provision

### Year 1:

What a week the children have had. They burst into school, full of stories after their Christmas holidays and it was so lovely to see how genuinely happy they were to be back together with their friends. We put on our 'detective hats' this week and went on a hunt for clues around the classroom, as we discovered who the star of our next text is... a detective mouse! The children have all enjoyed

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>doing great partner work across all subjects, showing great respect when listening to others. Well done, Year 1! 😊</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| <p><b>Year 2:</b></p> <p>What a wonderful welcome back! We have had so much fun being back together with our friends and ready for lots more learning this term. We started this week by exploring a bog that mysteriously appeared in our playground! We created a wordbanks of different adjectives and nouns to describe and name the plants and animals that live there, We also spent some time learning more about Queen Victoria who we will be learning more about in our humanities lessons this term - once again YEar 2 showed their passion and interest in Historical figures! In maths we completed our work on addition and subtraction - ready to begin learning all about multiplication in the coming weeks.</p> | <p><b>Year 3:</b></p> <p>Year 3 had a brilliant start to the term, it looks like 2026 is going to be a fantastic year! To kick things off, we have begun exploring the Shang Dynasty, learning about how it began and why it was important.</p> <p>In RE, we have started our Judaism topic, focusing on the key question: What is a covenant?</p> <p>In maths, we have been learning about quadrilaterals, exploring their specific properties and understanding that a square is a type of rectangle.</p> <p>Well done, Year 3!</p>                                                                          | <p><b>Year 4:</b></p> <p>What a great first week back! This week Year 4 has come back to school with fantastic, positive attitudes! We have begun lots of fantastic learning! In RE we began to look at Hinduism and familiarised ourselves with the different deities and what things they symbolise. In maths we have been looking at the 7xtables. At first we found this a little bit challenging, but we are showing great resilience. In Reading, we have started our new text of Charlottes Web. We have loved learning about the characters and their relationships so far and can't wait to read on. Well done for such a positive start to 2026 Year 4!</p>    |                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Year 5 Faith:</b></p> <p>Faith has had an amazing first week back, they have shown amazing behaviour for learning. Within reading, we started our new book of the term called 'Ghost' delving into a prediction of what they thought it would be about based on the book cover! Within writing we fully immersed in our next text as well, Faith class showed amazing inference skills and predictions based on objects and illustrations from the text. Within maths we focused on short division using representations, using their mathematical knowledge to help them! Overall Faith class</p>                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Year 5 Hope:</b></p> <p>Class Hope has had a fantastic first week back with great engagement in lessons. We have started our new topic in science 'Properties and Changing of Materials' which was introduced with an investigation into various materials and whether they were magnetic, hard, soft or brittle and also testing whether they were opaque, translucent or transparent. The children have been engrossed with their new writing text, 'The Hound of the Baskervilles. They wrote predictions about the text after their engaging immersion lesson. Short division is our new area of</p> | <p><b>Year 6:</b></p> <p>We have had a fantastic start to the new spring term in Year 6. Pupils have begun learning about evolution and inheritance in science, exploring how living things change over time and how characteristics are passed on. In history, we have started an exciting new topic on civil rights, learning about important events and people who helped create change. The children have shown great curiosity and thoughtful discussion so far. On Friday, we enjoyed a visit to Dalston Library, where pupils learned how to use the space responsibly and explored a wide range of books. It has been a busy and positive start to the term.</p> |                                                                                    |

has been amazing, they have worked extremely hard. Well done!

focus in maths, in which the children are beginning to understand the importance of multiplication and times tables.

### Hot chocolate Friday!

Pupils enjoyed hot chocolate this week. They have consistently displayed exemplary behaviour and learning.



| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2  | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 Hope | Year 5 Faith | Year 6 |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|--------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| Stefan    | Kiara  | Huzaifa | Jhoan  | Angel  | Aiden C     | Ellis        | Lola   |

School value in focus this week **respect**:

Each week the class teacher nominates a pupil in their class who has shown the school value that was in focus.



The pupils who have shown excellent **respect** are:

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3  | Year 4 | Year 5 Hope | Year 5 Faith | Year 6 |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| Nile      | Shae   | Maison | Mizhari | Veera  | Edson       | D`Marni      | Joel   |

### Keeping Children Safe

The safeguarding of the children at St Matthias is our number one priority. We adhere to stringent safeguarding procedures to protect the welfare of all the children who come to our school. We will endeavour to work with parents and carers as it is our duty as a school to protect our children and to keep them safe.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Blewett) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Ms Frohock, Ms Cherid or Ms Janeice).



**Lucy Blewett**  
**Headteacher**  
**DSL**



**Amy Frohock**  
**Deputy Headteacher**  
**Deputy DSL**



**Yasmine Cherid**  
**Assistant Headteacher**  
**SENDCO |**



**Janiece Headley-Walker**  
**Pastoral Manager**  
**Deputy DSL**